Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00568 270652Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 CA-01 PPTE-00 NEA-10
CIAE-00 FBIE-00 NSAE-00 /018 W
----------048016 271708Z /70
R 270500Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6642

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0568

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (ARNISS, MOHAMMAD DIB)
SUBJ: W/W MOHAMMAD DIB ARNISS

REF: (A) STATE 17933 (B) DAMASCUS 446

1. MOHAMMAD DIB ARNISS IS SYRIAN CITIZEN THROUGH FATHER. AS IS CASE OF ALL SYRIAN MINORS, FATHERS'S PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR EXIT VISA TO LEAVE COUNTRY, EVEN IF VISA IS REQUESTED ON U.S. PASSPORT. IN THE ABSENCE OF FATHER, WHO APPEARS TO BE OUT OF COUNTRY FOR EXTENDED PERIODS, PATERNAL GRANDFATHER IS ASSUMED TO BE GUARDIAN AND ONE WHO MUST APPROVE TRAVEL OF BOY FROM SYRIA.

2. FRANKLY, SYRIAN LAW AND PRACTICE GIVE PREFERENCE TO MALES IN CUSTODY AND GUARDIAN-SHIP MATTERS. TO TRY TO CIRCUMVENT GRANTFATHER'S DESIRE TO KEEP BOY IN SYRIA, SHE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE HUSBAND SIGN STATEMENT AGREEING TO SON'S RETURN TO U.S. OR OBTAIN CUSTODY OR GURDIANSHIP OF HER SON. WHILE IT MIGHT BE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR HER TO GIVE LOCAL LAWYER POWER OF ATTORNEY TO COMPLETE EXIT FORMALITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES WOULD NATURALLY DEFER TO EITHER HUSBAND OR NEXT MALE IN HIS FAMILY, I.E. GRANDFATHER.

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3. IF HUSBAND FAILS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH WIFE TO ARRANGE BOY'S RETURN TO U.S., MRS. ARNISS WOULD HAVE LITTLE RECOURSE BUT TO SEEK SYRIAN COURT DECISION ON GUARDIANSHIP OF BOY. U.S. COURT DECISION MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER TO OBTAIN SYRIAN DECISION, EITHER JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE, ON GUARDIANSHIP AND EXIT OF SON FROM SYRIA.

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4. WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT WIFE REOPEN COMMUNICATIONS WITH HUSBAND TO ENCOURAGE HIS AND SON'S RETURN TO U.S. WE BELIEVE THAT INS, IF MRS. ARNISS EXPLAINS SITUATION, WILL APPROVE PETITION EXPEDITOUSLY. IF MRS. ARNISS DESIRES, WE WILL FORWARD ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO HUSBAND, AT ADDRESSES SUPPLIED REF B.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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SAS ID: 3703287
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: W/W MOHAMMAD DIB ARNISS
TAGS: CASC, (ARNISS, MOHAMMAD DIB)
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